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## Liquid Crystals Today

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## Japanese Liquid Crystal Conference 2009

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## CONFERENCE REPORT

### Japanese Liquid Crystal Conference 2009

The Japanese Liquid Crystal (JLC) Conference 2009 was held on the Koganei campus of Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology on 13–15 September 2009. The Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology uniquely focuses on education and research in academic fields sustaining agriculture and engineering that constitute the core of industry. The University's history traces back over more than 130 years to its roots (see <http://www.tuat.ac.jp>). In fact, the campus is located in a quiet residential area surrounded by greenery, which is a suitable environment for education and research.

More than 400 people participated in the JLC conference from industry, government and academia, including 160 students. The number of participants this year unfortunately decreased due to the recent business recession. However, 219 papers were submitted in total, 119 as oral and 110 as poster presentations, which is almost the same number as last year.



Two lecture rooms and a theatre with a large capacity were used for the JLC conference and three parallel sessions were scheduled for three days. On the first day, papers in the fields of chemistry, displays and physics were presented in rooms A, B and C, respectively. In the evening, the poster sessions were scheduled after the oral sessions. Many people gathered in the poster rooms even before the poster sessions started,

arguing heatedly as has happened in the past. The JLC conference gives best poster awards (Kousai Shou) to encourage young scientists. This year six papers were awarded over wide-ranging research fields:

- (1) Yoko Ishii, Department of Physics and Applied Physics, Waseda University, 'Gas permeation mechanism through smectic bubbles'.
- (2) Jun Yoshioka, Department of Physics, Kyoto University, 'Structure and dynamics of the novel lamellar-nematic phase in the mixture of fluorinated liquid crystals and hydrocarbonated liquid crystals'.
- (3) Akio Nishimi, Graduate School of Engineering, Nagoya University, 'Fabrication of nanostructure assembly through liquid-crystalline supramolecular block copolymer thin films'.
- (4) Naoki Endo, Department of Information & Communications Engineering, Kogakuin University, 'Control of pre-tilt angle by alignment material coating using an electro-spray method'.
- (5) Yoshiki Sawa, Department of Material Chemistry, Kyoto University, 'Preparation and thermal deformation of liquid crystal elastomers with hybrid orientation'.
- (6) Kenji Tagashira, Graduate School of Engineering, Osaka University, 'Tunable lasing from a one-dimensional photonic crystal containing a patterned liquid crystal defect layer'.



On the second day, company sessions, which were started last year, were held. The invited lecture by Hirofumi Wakemoto (Toshiba Mobile Display Co, Ltd), 'Development of OCB mode LCDs and application of fast response' gathered many conference participants. On the last day, the remaining papers were presented with regards to photonics, soft matter, molecular alignment, chemistry and physics. Afterwards a laboratory tour to TRADIM (Technology Research

Association for advanced Display Materials) was held. Details on preprints of the JLC conference 2009 are available at [http://ci.nii.ac.jp/vol\\_issue\\_pkg/nels/AA11639022\\_en.html](http://ci.nii.ac.jp/vol_issue_pkg/nels/AA11639022_en.html).

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